

These qualities separately and collectively form the woof of the Letters: "Remember the graces!"¹ Another rule which has no rival is given to young Stanhope: "Suaviter in modo, fortiter in re" (gently in manner, strongly in deed). "I do not know any one rule so unexceptionable useful and necessary in every part of life. ... that gentleness of manners, with firmness of mind, is a short, but full description of human perfection on this side of religious and moral duties. That you may be seriously convinced of this truth, and shew it in your life and conversation, is the most sincere and ardent wish of ____."²

It must not be understood from the preceding paragraph that the conduct books do not treat on manners and deportment. They do and forcefully so. Notice how well Chesterfield has ingrafted their doctrines, Casa: "Agreeable manners are such as effect with delight some one of our senses; or, at least, do not shock or offend either the senses, the instincts, or the imaginations of those with whom we live and converse."³ Lyl: "Ther belongeth more to a courtier than bravery, which the wise laugh at, or personage, which the chaste mark not, or wit, which the most part see not. It is sober and discret behavior, civil and gentle demeanor, that in court winneth both credit and commoditie."⁴ Bacon: "This behaviour is as the garment of the mind, and ought to have the conditions of a garment. For first, it ought to be made in fashion; secondly, it should not be too curious or costly; thirdly,

1. Chesterfield's Letters to His Son, p 194 f., Letter CLXV.

2. op. cit., p 370 f., Letter CCXLV.

3. Galateo, p 154.

4. Doctrine of English Gentleman, p 81.